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17 up-to-date US aircraft have been downed by these guerillas in Phong Chuong village, Thua Thien province (South Viet Nam).

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NFL FIVE POINTS — BASIS FOR ANY SOUND SOUTH VIET NAM SETTLEMENT

ON Nov. 3, 1968, in an important statement announcing its acceptance of a quadripartite conference in Paris where it wants sit on an equal footing with the other delegations, the NFL proclaimed its five points as a basis for any sound South Viet Nam settlement. (The wording of these five points can be found in the statement of Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL Delegation, at the Paris Conference — See our supplement).

On Nov. 3, 4 and 5, 1968, an exchange of views took place between the leaders of the NFL and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. A joint communique issued at the end of the talks underscored the approval given by the Alliance to the NFL five points which have thus become the banner of the 14 million South Vietnamese in their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

STEMMING from the Political Programme endorsed in August 1967, the NFL five points provide a sound solution to different aspects of the South Viet Nam problem, the only solution which meets the deepest aspirations of the various social segments in the South: the first point defines the objectives of their struggle; the second makes clear the essential condition — the main obstacle to be removed — for the achievement of those objectives; the remaining three others deal with what is to be done in regard to home affairs, national reunification and foreign policy for the full materialization of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, progressing towards peaceful national reunification.

The five points form an indivisible and coherent whole and the spirit permeating them from the beginning to the end is one of independence and peace — true independence in genuine peace. The same spirit pervades the 1954 Geneva Agreements that have been challenged by the American imperialists. With its five points, the NFL is restoring the fundamental principles of the accords and their main political and military clauses, with due regard to the actual situation in South Viet Nam.

The origin of the war now raging there and of the violation of the people's national rights is undeniably the U.S. imperialists aggression. The "aggression of South Viet Nam by the North" myth is but a distortion of historical facts. The proposal put forward by American representatives in Paris on the restoration of the DMZ to its original status — as a first basic step to solve the Viet Nam problem — aims solely at deceiving those who are not abreast with Viet Nam events and at making people believe that aggression did not come from the opposite shore of the Pacific; it moreover betrays the persistent designs of the rulers in Washington to maintain the partition of our territory.

It is only after the cessation of U.S. aggression that it will be possible to settle the internal affairs of South Viet Nam "free from outside intervention." A broad national and democratic government will be formed and free general elections will be held. The NFL Political Programme will be put into effect: "promulgation and realization of democratic freedoms," "building of an independent and sovereign economy and improvement of the people's living standards", "implementation of an agrarian policy based on the motto "land to the tillers," "building of a national and democratic culture and education," etc...

While starting from the principle of Viet Nam's national unity recognized by the Geneva Agreements, the NFL does not forget the actual conditions obtaining in both zones and therefore stands for gradual peaceful national reunification — the first step

(Continued page 7)

South Viet Nam

- **Northwest of Pleiku, 2 enemy operations fought off, 1,200 US-puppet troops put out of action in 2 weeks.**
- Close to Saigon, 1,450 adverse casualties in the first 20 days of 1969.
- **South of Go Dau, one battalion and one company of U.S. artillery wiped out, 38 military vehicles and 4 cannons destroyed.**
- Da Nang sector, a U.S. convoy completely chopped up, a U.S. colonel and a U.S. lieutenant-colonel killed.

North Viet Nam

- A U.S. "Phantom" was brought down in Nghe An province on Jan. 25.
- **To date, the U.S. has lost 3,260 aircraft in all over North Viet Nam.**

FIRST AND SECOND PLENARY SESSIONS OF PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

THE first plenary session of the Paris conference on Viet Nam opened on Jan. 24, 1969, at a unsplit round table

Since early morning, hundreds of Vietnamese residents in Paris and suburban areas, among them many old persons and children, had gath red in front of the International Conference Centre carrying the DRVN and the NFL flags and streamers reading "Down with the Saigon puppet clique of traitors". "The South Viet Nam NFL will win"... to welcome the DRVN and the NFL delegations. The Saigon puppet clique who sent several of their agents for provocative purposes was strongly protested by Vietnamese nationals who snatched flags of the Saigon puppet regime, tore them to pieces, trampled upon them and shouted "Down with the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors" "Long live the South Viet Nam NFL" "Long live President Ho Chi Minh" and sang the song "Liberate South Viet Nam".

In the conference hall, the DRVN Government and the NFL delegations sat in two separate groups while those of the U.S. and the Saigon administration sat side by side.

Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, was the first to take the floor.

He outlined the U.S. imperialists' successive setbacks in their aggressive war against Viet Nam, the important successes of the South Vietnamese people and the growing prestige of the NFL in the struggle for national salvation.

He recalled the five points of the NFL regarding a solution to the South Viet Nam problem, and declared:

"We sincerely desire peace but that must be a peace in independence and freedom. Until the U.S. brings to an end its aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese will go on with their fight." (see in supplement Mr. Tran Buu Kiem's full statement).

In his speech, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, chief delegate of the DRVN, reaffirmed his government's full support for the Political Programme and the five points of the NFL. He stressed that to settle the Viet Nam problem, the four points of the DRVN and the five points of the NFL must be taken as bases and the following demands of the Vietnamese people must be given due consideration:

1 — The U.S. Government must stop its war of aggression in Viet Nam and halt for good all encroachements upon the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN.

2 — It must withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and remove all U.S. military bases from there.

3 — The internal affairs of the South Vietnamese people must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam NFL without any foreign interference.

4 — The reunification of Viet Nam must be settled by the people in the two zones of Viet Nam free from any external intervention.

(See full text in supplement).

US representative Henry Cabot Lodge, reiterated the same contentions made again and again by the U.S. side all through the 8 months of the Paris talks.

He did not say a word about the legitimate demands of the Vietnamese people, as made plain by Mr. Xuan Thuy and Mr. Tran Buu Kiem. He suggested instead that no reference be made of "the past" and that the session proceed directly to questions trickily raised by the US side, such as the restoration of the status of the DMZ, the withdrawal of U.S. troops and "forces of North Viet Nam" from South Viet Nam, the execution of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, and the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty.

The representative of the Saigon puppet administration Pham Dang Lam devoted most of his speech to wresting the history of the past 15 years in South Viet Nam, to cover up U.S. intervention and aggression.

Parroting shop-worn allegations by the most rabid anti-communist elements, he went to the lengths of slandering and smearing the socialist countries and the international communist movement. He even had the front to assert that the presence of nearly 600,000 US and satellite troops in South Viet Nam did not harm peace at all.

He also repeated his American bosses' proposals that the status of the DMZ be "restored," that an end be put to "North Vietnamese aggression," that "North Vietnamese troops" be "withdrawn" from South Viet Nam, and the like. Denying against common sense the representativeness of the NFL, he even asked for the latter's "respect" for the so-called "constitution" of the Saigon puppet administration, and promised "ranks and wealth" to NFL fighters.

AT the second plenary session of the Paris Conference (Jan. 30), the representative of the puppets continued to claim that the Saigon clique was a "legal" and "constitutional" government and to plead for the U.S. aggressive war which he said was not a "violation" of the Geneva Accords. For nearly three hours, he had the cheek to assert that he and his ilks were "patriots" "serving the people" and "fighting for peace", and at the same time heaped slanders on socialist North Viet Nam.

Chiming in with the Saigon puppets' representative, the Washington envoy, H. Cabot Lodge, refused to take into account the DRVN four points and the NFL five points and reiterated his proposal for the "restoration of the DMZ to its original status" and the "simultaneous withdrawal of armed forces from South Viet Nam".

Mr. Tran Buu Kiem had to deliver a strong attack against the slanders and distortion of facts by the U.S. and puppets' representatives. Once again, he recalled the process of U.S. aggression and threw light on the dirty role played by the Saigon administration as an instrument of U.S. neo-colonialism. He declared, "The U.S. has challenged the fundamental rights of the South Vietnamese people. To restore peace, it must respect those rights which cannot be the object of any bargaining... The United States belongs to the American and Viet Nam to the Vietnamese. As nobody interferes in U.S. internal affairs, the Americans should leave Viet Nam alone"... The five points of the NFL enjoy the approval of our entire people and the support of the world peoples; if our Conference accepts them as a basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue, it is certain that we shall be able to solve all substantive problems confronting us".

Taking the floor after the NFL representative, Mr. Xuan Thuy unmasked the U.S. chief negotiator who, under the guise of a suggested solution to the Viet Nam problem, put forth only proposals of a purely military character with emphasis only on the DMZ issue.

"Compelled to speak of the Geneva Accords", he stressed, "the U.S. nevertheless tried to pervert their letter and spirit. It strove to turn to account certain short-term military clauses to carry on its aggression. In dwelling upon the DMZ question, it wanted to make people believe that the Viet Nam war was one between North and South and caused by an "aggression by North Viet Nam" and that the respect (in U.S. way) of the DMZ status would be enough to check the war and restore peace. In fact, the war is one between the U.S. aggressors, their satellites and their henchmen on the one hand, and the South Viet Nam people and armed forces on the other".

"The Geneva Agreements", Mr. Xuan Thuy went on, "consist of political and military clauses, but the political part is the fundamental one. To solve military problems, we should base ourselves on political considerations. In taking up the problem of the DMZ in the first place and apart from others, the U.S. aims only at perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam".

In the same session, the DRVN envoy condemned the anti-communist statement made on Jan. 25 by the puppets' representative. "The DRVN people are proud of their socialist achievements and from warships, have pounded the northern part of the DMZ, causing losses of life and property to the local people. And now, B.52s attacked Quang Binh province.

In two statements dated Jan. 27 and 29, the Foreign Ministry of the DRVN strongly denounced and severely condemned those U.S. criminal acts, and demanded that the latter stop its aggression against Viet Nam, cease at once all encroaching upon the sovereignty and threatening to the security of the DRVN, withdraw all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam NFL without foreign interference.

B.52s raid on Quang Binh:

MOST SERIOUS U.S. WAR ACTS SINCE BOMBING HALT

ON Jan. 23 and 24 1969, six flights of B.52s bombed many regions of Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province. On Jan. 26, two flights of B.52s committed the same crime in the same district.

Those raids were the most serious U.S. war acts since its President officially declared unconditional cessation of all bombings throughout the territory of the DRVN.

Since Nov. 1, 1968, U.S. planes have been daily violating the sovereignty and threatening the security of the DRVN; many times they have dropped CBU's and explosive bombs or fired rockets on many villages deep in the inland of the DRVN, between Vinh Linh region and Nghe An province. Many times too, U.S. heavy guns, from south of the demilitarized zone

Hanoi Press Opinion

Nixon only repeats the aggressors' old themes

AT a news conference held on Jan. 27, Nixon conceded that the U.S. war in Viet Nam was a "terribly difficult war." But he at the same boasted that the United States now had four "new" things: a new negotiating team in Paris, a new direction from Washington, a new sense of urgency with regard to the negotiations and new tactics. In holding out these four "new" things, Nixon hoped to placate American opinion and make believe that the U.S. President was seeking every means to put an end to the war.

But what in fact do the "new" American proposals consist of? They are the following: restoration of the status of the demilitarized zone and mutual and guaranteed withdrawal of armed forces. These are old themes already reiterated time and again by Johnson and rejected by our people. They only tell of the obstinacy of the ruling circles in Washington.

In fact, Nixon still persists equating the aggressor (U.S. imperialism) and the victim of aggression (the Vietnamese people) and this is the basis of the solution he has proposed for the war in Viet Nam.

It is Washington that has dispatched its troops and weapons to South Viet Nam by air and by sea. Yet, Nixon proposed the restoration of the status of the demilitarized zone to gloss over the impression that the origin of the war lies somewhere in this zone.

Common sense calls for Washington's withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the GIs and troops of U.S. satellites it has brought there. Yet, Nixon has set conditions for this withdrawal.

On the other hand, the American leaders still cling to the Saigon puppets, and Cabot Lodge, Nixon's envoy in Paris, declared his approval of the speech of the Saigon representative, for the simple reason that it adequately explained the aggressive stand of the United States.

By harping on the same old tunes, Nixon clearly tries to prolong the Paris Conference indefinitely with a view to carrying on the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam.

Quan Doi Nhan Dan

(People's Army)

Jan. 30, 1969

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

ON THE COMMUNICATION FRONT

Editor's Note: *On the occasion of the 30th founding anniversary of the Indochinese Communist Party, — now the Viet Nam Workers' Party —, we publish below a reportage on the struggle waged by Party members in Nam Dan district, Nghe An province — homeland of President Ho Chi Minh and site of the first Soviets in Viet Nam — on the communication and transport front.*

THE US aggressors have dropped tens of thousands of bombs of different types on Nam Dan district (Nghe An). Nam Dan road in particular, in two months alone, was target of nearly 1,000 US air strikes. In such circumstances, the district Party Committee convened a meeting at which it affirmed the strong resolve to defeat the US aggressors on the communication and transport front, regarding this task as one of prime importance at present. Party members joined local inhabitants in road-mending work in a stirringly revolutionary mood.

Under enemy bombing and shelling or under heavy rain and storm at night, at river crossings or at road junctions, everywhere the steel fighters of the "steel" brigade were seen on the job. They were formed into a "people's engineering unit" which comprised members of the Party and the Labour Youth Union which was entirely supported by the people. Anytime there were road damage, burning cars and US delayed action bombs, the "Steel Brigade" was present. All Party members appointed to the task appeared on the roads at the first beats of tam-tam or gong. Nam Dan was battling against adverse nature to carry on its autumn cultivation. The Party Committee saw to it that labour force would be appropriately reserved for farm work while continuing to concentrate man-power and material resources on jobs on the road. More cadres were needed. The district Party Committee immediately transferred dozens of them to help communications and transport. Each road section had a commanding body.

The Party Committee considered the "Steel Construction Site" to be the section most savagely attacked by US war planes. It decided to dispatch in turns all party members in the district, regardless of the distance of their localities and of their working places, to the area to take part in the fighting, so as to temper their stand and valiant spirit as communists. Party members and the people spared no effort to meet the requirements of road mending and building. Hundreds of Party members living by the road-side, volunteered to do everything that could help fill bomb craters or do away with muddy bogs, ranging from dwelling-houses to household furniture. Village T. assigned members of the Party and the Youth Union the task of quarrying and making more than 1,000 white-washed rock warning marks to be planted on communication routes.

On one occasion, U.S. aircraft were conducting destructive raids on a road section at village G. Unable to wait for a report, Phan Si Trung, Secretary of the village Party Committee, rushed onto the road and mobilized in time a fighting force. Before leaving his home, he told his wife, "It's only too natural that sacrifice should be made when there is fighting. When the need arises, party members and officials must be the first to set examples. If something happens to me in this battle, try to suppress your emotion otherwise it would badly affect the morale of others...". He courageously laid down his life on the road that day.

Two delayed-action bombs were lodged in the roadbed at village Q. If they were left to explode on the spot, the road would be damaged and traffic to the frontline interrupted. The Party cell laid their heads with the "Steel Brigade" 's. There was a proposal that the bombs should be demolished on the spot to reduce the risk. Tran Dinh Vinh, leader of the village militia, said to members of the Brigade, "We should not back down. Let's work out how to remove the bombs quickly and safely". All members of the Brigade, men and women alike, followed Vinh to the danger area to remove the bombs. They dug and dug and soon reached them. Everybody felt very excited. Finally, as if he was spurred by a miraculous force, young Trinh Cong Phu lifted the bombs with both hands for others to place the rope around their cases. Soon the bombs were brought to surface and carried far from the road. Phu had found the combined energy of a young man who took delight in fighting for the revolutionary cause and of a grieved father who had just lost his first baby child to US bombing. After days of ordeals through fire and sword and after the successful demolition of the bombs to save the road, Phu was admitted to the Party.

Formerly, village D. ranked among the laggards in the district. After the village Party Committee had resolutely decided to send all Party members to work on communication routes, every activity gained momentum in the thick of fierce fighting. In spite of the fact that US bombs had completely ravaged the string of hills in the village, and although the road which cut through the village had been destroyed by nearly 5,000 bombs, the village Party Committee maintained firm confidence. It held that the road to the front-line could not be cut

An irrigation work in Lang Son province.

of so long as Party members and the masses stuck to it. It set up a "Steel Brigade" as the hard-core in the communication and transport service and in the ground-to-air fighting. After the "Steel Brigade" of village D, Nam Dan has now "Steel Platoons" and "Steel Companies" at all the villages in the district. Those who have joined the "Steel Brigade" of village D., come forward to assume the glorious responsibility for the defence of the "indomitable route" of the district, on behalf of their village Party Committee.

On whatever job, Party members are doing everything they can to develop to the highest degree the revolutionary tradition of the Soviets of Nghe An, the home province of President Ho Chi Minh. Pham Thanh Trung, leader of a Party group at the M. river crossing, throughout the 4 years of fighting against the US aggressors, was never on leave. Each time US bombs were dropped on his work-site, he always was the first to be seen on danger spots, now marking the sites of delayed-action bombs with tree branches, now rowing the ferryboat to safety. At Road Maintenance Unit N°46, woman Party member Le Thi Nham, its leader, had half her head of hair cut off by a bomb splinter. But at no time had the road in her charge been cut. One evening, after meal, seeing US bombs dropped, she hurriedly got on the road. Unaware of the road damage, two cars kept moving forward. Nham used an oil barrel to bar the road and made a sign to the cars to stop. When she realized that the cars were on a Southward-bound mission, she immediately thought of the needs of the battlefield. She made up her mind. Single-handedly, she temporarily opened the traffic. Single-handedly too, she walked through darkness in front of the cars guiding them out of the danger spots.

Nam Dan road has become a hot battlefield, a testing ground for the fighting spirit and political virtues of every Party member. Just from this place has emerged a new crop of young, staunch and valiant communists, ready to give their lives for this shining truth: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom".

PHAM THANH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES IN DRVN

THE Archaeology Institute of the DRVN recently held a conference to make an appraisal of archaeological researches in North Viet Nam in 1967-1968.

Twenty reports dealing with major landmarks in Viet Nam's national history were submitted to the assembly.

Vietnamese prehistory was evoked with new elements. Mount Do (Thanh Hoa province) appears to be not only a non-permanent habitat but also a centre of production of lithic tools of prehistoric men living some 300,000 years ago. Keo Leng locality in Lang Son province appears to have been inhabited as early as the end of the paleolithic age as shown by skull debris found there. It is thought possible to establish with some certitude connections between the two ancient civilizations in Viet Nam — the Hoa Binh and Bac Son civilizations. In fact, the excavations conducted last year seemed to confirm the succession of these two civilizations in the midlands of Bac Bo (north Viet Nam proper) in the early period of the neolithic age. Besides, one is seeking to establish the connection between two civilizations and those which, like themselves, seem to date back to the early neolithic age and whose vestiges were recently found in the province of Vinh Phu or investigated in the coastal regions and the Bay of Ha Long.

Archaelogical researches have also been carried out on the period of struggle for national independence and for the nation's development. 56 vestiges or artefacts relating to the insurrection of the Trung sisters (40-43 A.D) have been studied. Excavations at the site of the former Hoa Lu citadel (Ninh Binh province), capital of the country under the Dinh and Le Dynasties (from the end of the 10th century to early the 11th century) have begun. Reconstitution has been attempted of the activities of Pho Hien (province of Hai Hung) which was then together with Hanoi the two most important economic centres of North Viet Nam where over a rather long period (16th and 17th centuries) the first European traders in Indo-China set up their shops.

The protohistoric period of the kings Hung which might have lasted several thousand years up to the 3rd century B.C. and that of King An Duong who succeeded him, have been paid particular attention. In 1968 diggings were effected in the provinces of Vinh Phu, Ha Tay and Ha Bac and the vicinity of Hanoi, especially at the site of the ancient citadel of Co Loa, capital of King An Duong (3rd century. B.C.). Tools and weapons made of stone bone, metal (mostly bronze), ceramic debris, kitchen ashes, animal bones, paddy and beans preseved in earthen pots or jars, vestiges of dwellings, in all more than 2,000 artefacts and finds, have been collected, and will be of great use to the reconstitution of life in the first national communities in Viet Nam: the Van Lang and Au Lac kingdoms.

Finally, the participants in the Conference showed keen interest in the study of the stele inscriptions which are kept at the Social Sciences Library and which constitute a precious source for the reconstitution of the ancient history of Viet Nam.

1969 STATE PLAN TO BOOST GREAT REAR AND GREAT FRONTLINE'S STRENGTH

NGUYEN VAN DAO
Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission

TO meet the all-round tremendous and urgent requirements of the anti-U.S. fight for national salvation, the continued building of socialism and the raising of the people's living standards, the following main tasks have been set in the 1969 State Plan:

1) In the spirit of "all for our victory over U.S. aggressors" to meet adequately and promptly all requirements of national defence and the frontline.

In our people's fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation, North Viet Nam is the great rear-line. The political, moral and economic soundness of the rear is the permanent factor deciding the victory at the frontline. The tasks in the new period are extremely heavy. The requirements of the frontline are very great.

To accomplish the duty of the great rear towards the great frontline, the task of first importance incumbent on the North Vietnamese people is *to boost production so as to meet, adequately and promptly, all requirements of the Resistance*. The frontline can only be satisfactorily supplied thanks to increased production capacity and the raising of production to the highest degree. We continue to regard communications and transport as a particularly important task playing a decisive part in linking the rear to the frontline. By stepping up production and keeping going communications and transport, we shall be able to increase our economic potential, further strengthen the rear and, on this basis, concentrate man-power and material resources on serving the frontline. While implementing the State Plan, our people always bear in mind the following teaching of President Ho Chi Minh, our beloved leader, *"The sacred duty of our entire people at present is to stiffen our determination to fight and to win, our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate peaceful national reunification.*

"So long as a single aggressor remains on our soil, we must continue our fight and wipe him out."

2) To step up production and construction, improve the people's living standards, concentrate efforts on bringing about a turn in the building of local economy and further raise the economic strength of the North.

This is the most fundamental task of the North. In increasing the economic strength, the building of local economy holds a very important position. In 1969 and in the next few years, it is necessary to bring about a radical change in the building and development of local economy designed to satisfy in the main the needs of the peasants and the State in food and foodstuffs and to increase the number of items of goods and the output of commodities, substantially augment various kinds of building material, endeavour to supply the people with adequate housing and the State with enough materials for capital construction; and further expand the variety of materials deriving from agricultural products, as a basis for the development of local industry, especially the food processing industry. It is also necessary to raise the capability of local industry, bring into full play the capability of the local engineering industry of serving agriculture, communications and transport, capital construction, etc..., and to produce new additional exports lines.

The most fundamental task of agriculture is the widespread achievement of following targets: 5 tons of paddy per hectare in two crops, 2 pigs per hectare under grain and a workman for each cultivated hectare.

To attain these goals, efforts are to be made to develop agricultural production all-sidedly, by means of intensive cultivation for higher yields, with emphasis laid on food and foodstuffs. This is the objective for 1969 and also the fundamental and long-term guide-line of our agriculture. Efforts must be concentrated on boosting production of food and foodstuffs because of the requirements of the anti-US fight for national salvation, the building of socialism and the improvement of people's living standards. Industrial crops are to be expanded vigorously to supply sufficiently industry and exports. This is also a very important task of agriculture. On the other hand, we must promote livestock breeding to achieve a balance between it and crop growing, and expand different trades and occupations, so as to enable agriculture to develop vigorously and steadily, and to turn to good account the natural advantages of the tropics.

Along with the all-sided development of agriculture and intensive cultivation for higher yields, attention must be given to fulfilling the norm in acreage and carrying out cultivation in season and efforts made to multiply crops and further enlarge the agricultural area. These 3 tasks must be discharged simultaneously to help agricultural production make qualitative advances and change progressively in terms of structure, scale and labour efficiency, so as to create a steady basis for agricultural development.

The 1969 State Plan also calls for the stepping up of production and building of local industries including those run by the State and co-ops, so as to gradually achieve the balance between local industries and agriculture and give a fillip to local economy.

Production capacity of centrally-run industry should be promoted to the full so that it can have a high output and turn out high grade goods.

The State plan makes it clear that, on the basis of increased production, due consideration must be given to the people's well-being. Concentrated and tremendous efforts will be made to meet the people's needs in food, clothing, education etc... This is a very important task. Our people have a tradition of patriotism, cherish independence and freedom and are ready for every sacrifice and hardship in our fight to a finish against the U.S. aggressors; we shall uphold this noble self-devotion and continue to mobilize everybody to contribute his energy and intelligence and bring the Resistance war to complete victory. However, we must show due concern for the people's welfare. This is the purpose of our Party which expresses our Party's solicitude and affection for the people. This is also a very important link in the re-production of man power and in the enhancement of the people's zeal to produce more. In 1969, along with the settlement of problems concerning public welfare, the State will attack great importance to bettering the life of the people in areas hit by enemy raids and natural calamities, give proper care to families of war disabled, war martyrs and armymen, and to workers, public servants, students, school-pupils, etc. and continue to develop culture, education and public health vigorously.

3. To make active preparations for subsequent yeszs for post-war economic rehabilitation and development.

When the anti-US fight for national salvation ends in victory, our people will set to rebuilding the country and we shall make big strides in socialist construction. Therefore, parallel with the endeavour to meet the immediate requirements of the present anti-US fight for national salvation, we must make active preparations for future development on a long-term basis. To implement this task, we shall have to go on with the elaboration of long-term plans, survey work, planning for the key branches of economy and preparations for designing work. We have to pay attention to improving scientific and technical research work and step up the training of technicians, economic management cadres and skilled workers. The satisfactory fulfilment of the tasks concerning preparations for subsequent years is highly significant in the sense that it will make it posible for our people to develop economy at a quick tempo. It will secure for us the initiative in economic rehabilitation and develement, making us ready to cope with, and frustrate, all perfidious schemes of the enemy, should he recklessly resume his aggression against North Viet Nam.

In short, the 1969 State Plan is a plan which *upholds the spirit of "all for our victory over U.S. aggressors, all for South Viet Nam", a plan which will meet adequately and promptly all requirements of national defense and of the frontline, improve the people's living standards, concentrate efforts on bringing about a dramatic change in the building of local economy and further increase the economic strength of the rear base, the North, and at the same time actively prepare for the coming years, for post-war economic rehabilitation and development.*

Improved farming tools are being turned out en masse to boost North Vietnam's agricultural production.

SAGGING MORALE OR RISING CONSCIOUSNESS

Following the collective combat refusal by 3,000 GI's at the U.S. Dong Du base not far from Saigon on Dec. 28 last and by 2 battalions of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division at Binh Duc near My Tho on Dec. 20 (see last issue) Giai Phong Press Agency reported that on Jan. 3 this year, at Binh Duc, the rear base of the U.S. 9th Infantry, a GI section also disobeyed marching orders. Their commanders having contemplated violence, the mutineers cooled down the bad intentions of the officers by firing salvoes into the air; the base commander gave way and cancelled the given order.

THUS, of late the anti-war movement has undergone a new development. Indeed, since the massive dispatch in 1965 of GI's to prevent the collapse of the Saigon puppet clique, disintegrating and tottering under the impact of the revolutionary upsurge of the people triggered by the NFL, numerous cases of rebellion, mutiny, desertion, destruction of weapons and equipment, self-inflicted wound and even suicide have been recorded among the GI's in South Viet Nam or those Viet Nam-bound. However, the fact that whole units, up to battalion-size, and that thousands of officers and men of various armed services, logistics, engineering, artillery and armoured, etc... demonstrated in a body their opposition to the war they have to fight is a sign of fearful seriousness for the aggressors.

According to figures far from being complete, at least 20 cases of this kind, were reported in the first half of last year, 8 of them in the first 2 months at the Binh Duc base. At Lai Khe, rear-base of the "famous" *Big Red One*, the oldest and most brilliant of the infantry divisions of the U.S. Army, 4 similar cases were disclosed betwen May 9 and June 13, 1968. The 25th Infantry Division nicknamed *"Tropic Lightning"* did not lag behind its sisters in this respect and, on the contrary, brought this movement to a climax with the big demonstration at Dong Du on Dec. 28 last. Other units, such as the 4th Infantry Division, the 1st and 101st Air Mobile Divisions, the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, the various airborne and light infantry brigades, etc... were not immune from the disease.

The trouble is all the more threatening as the gigantic military apparatus of the USA possesses enormous means supposedly capable, if not of inflating chock-a-clock the morale of the GI's, at least of preventing such a rapid sinking as we have witnessed. Substantial material privileges have been granted to those in Viet Nam: pay bike, rest and recreation leave in reputed and most attractive cities in the Far-East and the Pacific including Hongkong, Bangkok, Singapore, Manila, Taipeh, Honolulu, Yokosuka, etc..., a one year term in Viet Nam with the promise of a good job once back home (alive, of course), hot beefsteaks and soups, coca-cola and iced drinks, ironed uniforms and daily mail brought by helicopters to the combat trenches and the remotest positions in the jungle, etc...

On the other hand a harsh repression has been carried out against the recalcitrants. A vast network of stockades has been established where thousands of officers and men who do not want to kill and get killed uselessly are under close arrest. Martial courts sit without interruption. Yet, one is eye-witness to a significant event. The majority of those, whom an attempt to label as ignominious has been made, have affronted "justice", head up, and posed themselves as accusers, landing their "judges" in often ridiculous, sometimes awkward situations. Even in jail, the GI's keep up their struggle. So, in August and Sept. last, according to the American press, a thousand or more servicemen detained in the Da Nang Brig and Long Binh jail (near Saigon) mutinied.

The Black soldiers whose proportion in the Expeditionary Corps and especially in units sent to the first lines is double and even treble of that at home, those who are, in civilian life "the last hired and the first fired" couple their action against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam with that against racial discrimination. They set for themselves such slogans as "Our fight for freedom is not here, but in the States!"

Reflecting the frame of mind prevailing in the States where the Viet Nam war is "the most unpopular in all its history," the GI's in most cases do not accept the arguments given by their superiors to explain the necessity of their presence and their sacrifices in South Viet Nam. The hatred of the aggressors borne by a whole people whose heroism commands the admiration of even its enemies, and the contempt of a whole nation for a handful of traitors whose corruption and baseness are brought to light, serve as an eye-opener for the thickest block heads. It is thus none too extraordinary if the correspondent of the *International Herald Tribune* observed on Dec. 17 last that throughout his 18-month stay in South Viet Nam, he met ony one GI who was really enthusiastic about the war.

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The reason behind this ailment which leaves the Pentagon powerless with all its colossal budget and its merciless arsenal is multiple. However, the decisive factor remains the unjust nature of the war of aggression which the GI's have been forcrd to fight against the Vietnamese people, and which the lies of Eisenhower-Dulles, Kennedy-Johnson or their successors as well as the talent of a Steinbeck or a Bob Hope cannot and will by no means be able to camouflage.

Another factor, equally very important, which is at the root of the slumping morale of the GI's, is the virtually consumate defeat of the U.S. imperialists. The gloomy cups brought to the ranks of the U.S. Expeditionary Corps by the staggering blows dealt by the patriots of the NFL, especially since the general offensives and uprisings early in 1968, do duty for a cold pig for those who still believe in the impunity of crimes when these are committed by the citizens of a "super-power."

The third factor lies in the immense work of persuasion and explanation done by NFL among the GI's. Millions of leaflets, hundreds of thousands of placards and wall posters and other forms of ideological actions have been used to reach these "boys", often unconscious, and to bring home to them that they are, like the Vietnamese people, victims of a vast conspiracy hatched by the imperialists of their country against the right of the peoples to the free exercise of their liberties. From the ordinary woman peasant to the university professor in the occupied city, from the tiny shoe-blacks to the clandestine militant, everybody takes part, in his own way, in this arduous work, full of toils and also of humanitarian feeling, which has begun bearing fruit. This form of struggle makes up, together with the armed and political struggle, the trilogy of spear-heads directed by people's war in South Viet Nam against the aggressors and their stooges.

A fourth and last factor which must be given prominence is the growing awareness of the American people of their glorious traditions and their responsibilities. This is one of the things that dread most those die-hard elements who complain about the lack of the Nation's (U.S.) support to GI's in Viet Nam and who abuse and act severely against the most courageous American men and women struggling at the forefront of the movement against the Viet Nam war. To these men and women who bring honour to their country, the Vietnamese people express their heartfelt gratitude.

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THUS, the two "pillars" of the war of aggression of the neo-colonialist type conducted by the U.S. in Viet Nam have turned out both to be broken reeds. The first — the puppet army, has been reduced to such a state that Washington had to hurriedly drop its mask to rush to South Viet Nam half a million GI's in order to prevent its total disintegration. The U.S. Expeditionary Corps, the other pillar, has proved to be an ill-adapted, cumbersome, costly and less effective instrument, plagued moreover by an internal dissent which is gaining in scope. Is that not one of the most irrefutable proofs that the Yankee imperialists and their Saigon valets are irremediably doomed to total defeat? And then, how false sound the boasts proferred in Paris around the round table by a Cabot Lodge or a Phan Dang Lam about the "victory" which the Americans are winning on this land that is burning under their feet.

On the highway from Da Nang to Thuong Duc: US marines giving up a "mopping-up" operation and sprawling on the terrain.

NFL decides halt in operations at Tet

ON Jan. 28, *Giai Phong* Press Agency released a NFL statement on the suspension of military attacks decided by its Central Committee on the occasion of the Tet festival (Lunar New Year) this year which will fall on Feb.16 next. This truce will be observed by the PLAF and the people of South Viet Nam from 6 a.m. on Feb. 15 to 6a.m. on Feb. 22, Indochina time.

The announcement made clear that Tet this year would be for the people and the PLAF of South Viet Nam a festival full of enthusiasm and self-confidence, a festival of great national union and great successes, a festival which would herald new and more resounding victories on all fronts, political, military and diplomatic.

In the statement, the NFL urged the PLAF and people to strictly execute its order for the halt of military actions and at the same time keep up their watchfulness so as to expose the enemy misrepresentation of this decision and forestall his sabotage and provocations.

It called on puppet armymen and policemen to bring pressure to bear on their superiors for the cancellation of operations and confinement orders during the above mentioned days and the granting of leave in order to enjoy the festival among their families. It also exhorted them to join the people in the struggle for the cessation of U.S. aggression, the removal of the obstinate Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, and the recovering of national independence and sovereignty, peace and happiness.

The PLAF Command has also made public the modalities for the carrying out of the NFL decision.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGE

TO THE CAIRO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ARABS PEOPLE

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, I wish to convey our best greetings to the International Conference in support of the Arab people. Your Conference is the expression of the militant solidarity between the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the progressive forces over the world and the Arab people.

Israel's brazen acts of aggression, aided and abetted by the U.S. imperialists, have brought about tension in the Middle East and constituted a gross encroachment on the sovereingty of the Arab countries, a serious threat to world peace and security and at the same time an insolent challenge to world opinion.

The Vietnamese people strongly condemn the Israeli aggressors, and demand that they withdraw their troops from the Arab territories occupied by them, and restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate and inalienable rights. The Vietnamese people fully support the Palestinian people's liberation movement, and the legitimate struggle waged by the Arab people to liberate their territories from Israeli occupation, thereby contributing to the preservation of peace in the Middle East and the world.

The Vietnamese people are determined to fight the U.S. aggressors till total victory to fulfil their tasks toward their own nation and their obligations toward the friendly peoples who are struggling against imperialism and colonialism, for independence and freedom.

I sincerely thank you for the sympathy and active support given to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Wishing your Conference good success.

Hanoi, January 21, 1969

HO CHI MINH

President of the DRVN

WORLD OPINION URGES NIXON

TO END U.S. AGGRESSION AGAINST VIET NAM

THE Executive Committee of the *International Federation of Teachers' Trade Unions* has met in plenary session in Warsaw. High on the agenda was this item: "Further strengthening the world teaching circles' solidarity with the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors, for National Salvation".

The session decided:

— to call on all members of the Federation for contributions for the building of an orphanage in Viet Nam;

— to appoint and send a delegation of the Federation to Paris to express to Minister Xuan Thuy, Chief of the delegation of the DRVN to the Paris Conference on VietNam, the Federation's militant solidarity with the teachers and people of Viet Nam, and protest to the delegation of the U.S. Government against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam;

— to publish a special Viet Nam issue of the magazine "World Teachers".

IN a letter addressed on Jan. 15 to Nixon, Pierre Gensous, Assistant Secretary General of the *World Federation of Trade Unions*, urged that the United States end its aggression against the South Vietnamese people and all encroachments on the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN, withdraw all U.S. troops and other foreign troops from Viet Nam, dismantle all U.S. military bases in South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

ACCORDING to reports from the United States, more than 200 students of the *Columbia University* on January 21 demonstrated against the arrival at the University of draft agents of the U.S. Army and Air Force.

They chanted slogans against the U.S. war of agression in Viet Nam and the recruitment of soldiers in their university.

Robbi Roth, member of the organizing committee of the demonstration, underlined: "We want to show, by our demonstration to the university authorities, that as soon as they begin to abet the war in Viet Nam, we stand up against them."

Following a meeting held in the university campus, the students staged a march through adjacent streets.

ON January 20, a meeting of solidarity with the Vietnamese people was held in Goteborg (*Sweden*) at the initiative of the Swedish Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam. The participants approved a resolution supporting the stand of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. delegation and that of the D.R.V.N. delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and urging that the U.S. end its war of aggression in Viet Nam and withdraw all its troops and weapons from South Viet Nam.

Parade organized by the "Committee of Aid to Viet Nam Children" in Reggio Emilia (Italy) on Dec. 3, 1968.

NEWS FROM LAOS

Vientiane Authorities to Blame for Very Serious Provocations Against Lao Patriotic Front

ON January 22, 1969 the spokesman for the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee issued a statement denouncing the new, very serious acts of provocation and sabotage by the Vientiane administration against the Representation of the Lao Patriotic Front in Vientiane, *Khaosan Pathet Lao* reported.

The statement recalled the grenade attack on the Representation Office on Jan 18, the firing and manhandling of the Representation guards on Jan. 19 and 20, as well as the successive notes in which the Vientiane administration asked in a threatening tone the Representation to leave Vientiane, while troops and military police were sent to encircle the Representation Office.

The statement pointed out:

"These systematic acts which took place within a short period of time in defiance of the warning made on January 18 by the spokesman of the LPF prove that the Vientiane authorities have been executing a long premeditated wicked plan with odious means, including the use of armed force, to attempt the lives of members of the LPF Representation and push it out of Vientiane.

"Corporal Ang of the Vientiane army who on January 20 was wounded and caught red-handed in his abortive assassination of members of the LPF Representation and later brought for medical care in the Representation Office, has made a confession and denounced the Vientiane authorities' murder plot against the Representation of the LPF in Vientiane".

The statement went on: "It must be stressed that these are new and very serious acts and schemes of sabotage against national concord, and serving the purpose of the U.S. imperialists' plan to entensify and broaden their war of aggression in Laos.

"These criminal acts also spell out the breaking by Prince Souvana Phouma and the rightist party of their commitments taken on September 10, 1962 in the presence of the two Co-Chairmen of the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos and representatives of the International Commission regarding the guarantee of safety for the Representation of the Lao Patriotic Front in Vientiane.

"The Lao Patriotic Front firmly insists that the Vientiane administration and Prince Souvanna Phouma duly punish the culprits of the above-mentioned criminal acts, pay due damages to the ransymen of the LPF who were groundlessly assaulted and beaten, compensate for the damage they caused to the Representation of the LPF and the civilian victims of the attacks, take urgent measures to put an end to all acts of provocation and sabotage, first of all remove immediately the armed forces, military police and hoodlums now encircling the LPF Representation Office and see to the safety of the Representation including its personnel, cadres and guards".

NFL FIVE POINTS BASIS FOR ANY SOUND SOUTH VIET NAM SETTLEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

being the re-establishment of normal relations between North and South. The method of achieving it will be discussions between the two zones without external intervention. In this respect, the NFL's views coincide with those of the (DRVN) Fatherland Front.

The same realistic spirit imbues the NFL foreign policy programme. The Geneva Agreements have stipulated that pending national reunification, each zone of Vietnam should abstain from adhering to military alliances with foreign countries and should not allow foreign military bases to be set up in its territory. The NFL, taking into consideration the actual situation in South Vietnam and in the world, developed this "military neutrality" into a "foreign policy of peace and neutrality". It declared its readiness to abide by the five principles of coexistence and to establish friendly relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty. It stressed in particular the importance of its relations with the two neutral neighbouring countries: Cambodia and Laos.

Rigid in its principles of national independence, sovereignty and unity, but flexible in the application of the same principles, the NFL five points supply a satisfactory answer to the requirements of sentiments and reason not only of the 14 million South Vietnamese and 17 million North Vietnamese but also of all friends of our people.

By bringing out some specifically South Vietnamese aspects of the problem as a complement to the DRVN four points, they constitute a major contribution to the settlement of the Vietnam issue as a whole.

WHILE in Paris, quadripartite negotiations are under way, everyone is brought home the purport of the NFL five points.

A first step forward on the road to peace was taken when the imperialists were forced to accept the presence of the NFL at the Conference. But it was only a first step. The American rulers continue to cling to their Saigon creatures — the warlike Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, which they label as "legal and constitutional government of South Viet Nam". They persist in denying the NFL a decisive role in the political life, and in the search for solutions of the problems of South Viet Nam.

This obstinacy can be ascribed to the illusion—shared by both the old Johnson administration and the new Nixon team—as regards the military strength of the United States. The recent article by H. Kissinger in "Foreign Affairs" is particularly revealing in this connection. While admitting the setbacks so far sustained by the U.S. neo-colonialist undertaking, the new adviser to the U.S. President on National Security nevertheless advocates continuation of the aggressive war by means of a new defensive strategy, trusting that the people's forces "cannot force the withdrawal of American forces from South Viet Nam." Opposing the quadripartite conference and the eventual formation of a coalition government in South Viet Nam, Kissinger suggests that the Saigon "sovereign government," enter into talks with the NFL as a "group representing an important domestic power base."

All these elucubrations testify to the fact that the aggressors have drawn no lesson from their past experiences and are shutting their eyes to hard facts: South Viet Nam people's forces have been holding at bay more than 1,200,000 adverse troops, including over half a million GI's aimed to the teeth, all American strategies have been foiled one after another and Abrams' new "clear-and-hold" strategy fares no better under repeated blows dealt by the waves of general offensives and simultaneous uprisings by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces; this new strategy is however not very different from the one favoured by Kissinger. The puppet administration is shaken to its very foundations; Saigon is seething with revolutionary effervescence, and every day thousands of people there raise their voices for the replacement of the ruling triumvirate by a "cabinet for the restoration of peace."

The prestige of the NFL is rising higher than ever, both at home and abroad. Any obstinacy to refuse it its capacity as genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people with a decisive say in the political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue and any design to ignore its five points as the basis for such a settlement, far from helping the Americans out of their impasse, only leads them to a total fiasco.

IN LIBERATED HUE CITY

Editor's note. *During the general offensives and concerted uprisings of early spring 1968, revolutionary committees controlled the city of Hue for nearly a month. In memory of those glorious days, we publish below as story abridged by a Hue writer depicting the enthusiasm of the people and the shameful downfall of the enemy.*

THE fighting new entered its third day. While all enemy counter-attacks were foiled by our combatants on all fronts, the people of the Inner Citadel District were bending their efforts on building revolutionary power. All delegates elected by popular representatives to the Insurrection Committee of the district were natives of the city. Among them were some who had been driven away by U.S.-Thieu-Ky repression and had now returned to punish the enemy and liberate their beloved Hue.

At three in the afternoon, the first communiqué was broadcast by loudspeakers of the propaganda service of the Union of Youth and Students for the Protection of the City: "The Insurrection Committee of the Inner Citadel District orders all functionaries and employees of the puppet administration to report to the revolutionary power and hand over all documents and weapon in their possession..."

An old man stood in the middle of the street, raised his arms and shouted, "Hurrah!, Hurrah for the Revolution!", which caused two young girls passing by with first-aid kits slung over their shoulders to smile and address him. "Well, Grandpa," they said, "you seem to be in rather high spirits!

"Of course I am," answered the old man. "I'd been waiting for more than ten years for such a communiqué! Where are you going?"

"We're going to tell our friends to set up a first-aid team for our bloc."

"Good! I am glad to see you so active. Only ne'er-do-wells stay home in the present circumstances! Drop in and tell my grand-children to join, will you?"

In the street, a crowd of people were passing to each other and reading in turn a copy of the pamphlet "The Nine Policies of the Insurgents." Others were listening on transistor radios to the afternoon news broadcast of the Voice of Viet Nam.

"Was that bastared Khoa caught?" a man asked.

"He managed to make himself scarce, it seems," said another.

Indeed, Pham Van Khoa, the province chief, had made himself so scarce that even his superiors, both Yanks and puppets, were unable to find him. Saigon radio said he had "disappeared". Wherever he might be hiding, did he know that barely fifteen minutes after the order of the Insurrection Committee was proclaimed, his subordinated were humbly reporting to the revolutionary authorities? The first to show up were the police and some small fry. They all bowed and trembled, as if they were entering the yamen of some great mandarin.

"We were merely earning our living," they pleaded.

Next came higher-ranking thugs. Do Manh Toan, the deputy chief of Quang Dien district, whined, "Please believe me. I was not at all interested in politics."

"A deputy district chief, and not interested in politics? What are you talking about?"

"Sir, the only thing I was interested in was... gambling."

Le Van Tru, in charge of the "Open Arms" program, turned up in an old black cotton "national" gown, thinking better of showing up in fine European-style suits, of which he had two or three fall closets. As he was cowering in a corner, somebody gave him a left-handed compliment. "Your 'open-arms' program has worked out so well that the city is now full of Vietcong!"

Le Trong Que, head of the "People's Will" Department, Le Chin Vinh, deputy head of the Rural Pacification Department, were both zealous servants of the CIA. They had committed so many crimes that the people wanted to make away with them, but the Insurrection Committee stuck to its policy of leniency towards all repentant elements who wanted to turn over a new leaf.

NCOs and officers, when surrendering themselves to the revolutionary authorities, brought along medical certificates and prescriptions to "prove" that they were all invalids! While waiting for the roll-call, they made themselves as unobtrusive as possible, cringing and bowing their heads. One doubled himself up every time a mortar shell whizzed overhead: he was an artillery lieutenant in the "Republican Army!" Lieutenant-colonel Khugng, a staff officer of the puppet First Division, kowtowed to everyone he happened to face: Liberation armymen, officers, militiawomen, even a young student wearing a blue scarf who had joined the insurrection barely two days before.

All the city people could now see the true colours of the puppet administration and army: paper marionettes with all the trappings of power collapsing under the first drops of rain!

In their desperate reactions, the Americans massacred civilians in cold blood. Even the families of their lackeys were not spared by their bombings and shellings. The home of province chief Khoa's mother was bombed. That of police superintendent Nguyen Van Can was hit by U.S. 106.7 mm. mortar shells; Can himself was wounded and was given care at the hospital on orders from the Insurrection Committee. Five members of Le Van Tru's family were killed by U.S. artillery. Tru himself being wounded.

The relationship between the Americans and their puppets being that of master to servant, the latter were quick to abandon the former, who looked upon their valets' lives as cheaper than dirt. Let's listen to the following conversation between a member of the Insurrection Committee and Nguyen Van Lien, police chief and representative of the Police Department of Northern Trung Phan (former Annam):

"Where have you been hiding these last three days?"

"In my neighbour's pigsty, Sir."

"Why didn't you stay there?"

"Sir, there was no one to dig shelters for my family against the shellings and bombings. I decided to ask for mercy from the Revolution."

"What do you think of the Revolution?"

"Sir, I was scared to death at first. But now, all I feel is hatred for the Yanks."

"All right. You can go home and dig shelters for your family. We'll see you later."

Captain Nguyen Van Loi, deputy commander of the Fourth Battalion, Second Regiment, who had also reported to the Insurrection Committee, volunteered to organize an "Association of Soldiers against American Aggression, for National Salvation." He said, "My family has greatly suffered from American shells and bombs. The Yanks are the ones who have betrayed first: they have betrayed me."

American shellings and bombings were so fierce some families had to remain in their shelters and could not cook their meals. Others ran short of rice. It was then that young volunteers brought supplie to them, day and night, under bombs and shells. Others buried decomposing dead bodies of civilian victims of American savagery. One of them, a young girl student named T.H., said, "It was a terrible work, but love of our compatriots and hatred of the enemy helped us overcome everything."

On the farewell night, before our fighters left the Inner Citadel, the people, especially the women, gave them a hearty send-off. "We eagerly look forward to your return," said one of them. "Aren't you afraid of bombs and shells, mother?" asked a PLAF man good-humouredly. Before she could answer, another woman quickly retorted: "Never mind the destruction. Once our foes are driven away, a happy future will be our reward."

On top of the flagtower, the NFL flag was flapping proudly, lit by the beam of a floodlight.

After
Hoang Phu Ngoc Phan.

Military Operations

VIOLENT PLAF ATTACKS IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ON SAIGON FRONT

IN the past week, reports by *Giai Phong* Press Agency highlighted the successes of the SVN patriots in the **Western Highlands** and on the **Saigon** front.

In the **Chu Pa** mountain area, 38km Northwest of Pleiku (210km South-Southwest of Da Nang), the enemy began on Jan. 10 Operation "Binh Tay 48" involving several puppet battalions. It ended on Jan. 20 with serious setbacks: 2 battalions badly mauled and on the verge of destruction. A new force comprising several other puppet battalions and one battalion of the US 4th Infantry Division was thrown on Jan. 21 into an Operation code-named "Binh Tay 49". Like the previous one, the new action turned out to be a real disaster after 4 days of relentless fighting. On Jan. 21, upon landing from helicopters, the GI's were engaged in heavy fighting and 2 companies wiped out and the battalion C.P. destroyed. The survivors fled in disorder, leaving behind their dead and wounded. On Jan. 22, 23 and 24, 4 other puppet companies were put out of action.

All told, between Jan. 10 and Jan. 24, in the Chu Pa area, 5 enemy battalions were written off or decimated, taking nearly 1,200 casualties (among them 350 GI's), losing 9 105-mm howitzers and 106.7-mm mortars destroyed, and 15 helicopters shot down or burnt.

The second serious U.S. setback came on the night of Jan. 19 to Jan. 20 when the PLAF raided a base camp of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade near **B'lao** (145km Northeast of Saigon, on the Dalat route). In this rush, the patriots completely overran and destroyed the C.P., the signal centre and the motor pool and inflicted serious damage on the other quarters of the base. In all, 200 GI's were put out of action, and 34 military vehicles, 6 blockhouses, 34 buildings and a power plant destroyed. Meanwhile, enemy installations in B'lao were pounded and the local people seized this opportunity to punish cruel agents and break loose from the enemy's grip.

In Darlac province, between Jan. 12 and Jan. 20, the PLAF launched several attacks in the area of **Boun Me Thuot** provincial capital, killing, wounding or capturing some one hundred adverse troops and forcing the enemy to evacuate several posts, 85km further Southwest, an artillery battery manned by young girls of the highland minorities on Jan. 15 hit Bu Trang airfield, destroying a plane and 2 helicopters and damaging another.

The PLAF were also reported very active on the **Saigon** front. During the first 20 days of January, in the 6 districts forming an arc which extends from the Northwest to the Southwest on the city's outer fringe, the regional troops and guerrillas of the PLAF continually harassed the enemy and took a toll of 1450, destroyed 62 vehicles mostly tanks and armoured cars, brought down 12 helicopters and burned 7 vessels.

Farther in Tay Ninh province, after having put out of action 65 puppet civil-guards in the **Tra Cao** strategic hamlet near Go Dan (57km Northwest of Saigon) on the night of Jan. 24, the regional troops of the PLAF violently intercepted throughout the day enemy reinforcements composed of a U.S. battalion and a puppet battalion. Shortly after midnight, they stormed the encampment of the US battalion. After 2 hours' fighting, the US battalion and an artillery company were wiped out, 38 vehicles and 4 cannons destroyed, 5 helicopters shot down and many weapons seized by the patriots.

In the same province, another battle was fought on Jan. 24 near **Bau Co** (90km North-Northwest of Saigon) against 2 U.S. companies, one of which was destroyed, while "aircraft hunters," between Jan. 16 and Jan. 22, shot down or burnt 15 enemy planes. 6 of them in a single day, Jan. 20, at **Trai Bi**, 22km Northwest of Tay Ninh.

In *Saigon* itself, according to Western news agencies, on Jan. 27, the patriots attack a police station and levelled with shelling, a "civil-defence" post in the heart of the 6th district.

In the Northern provinces of South Viet Nam, *Giai Phong* Press Agency announced, on the *Pass of Clouds* (Hai Van), 16km Northwest of Da Nang, on the route leading to Hue, the PLAF on Jan 14 **completely** wiped out a convoy of 16 trucks and armoured cars and 86 escorting GI's. Western news agencies further reported that on Jan. 15, near Da Nang, Colonel Michael Spark, commander of the 3rd U.S. marine regiment, and his suite among which Lt.Colonel **Emil Whisman**, were killed when their helicopter was grounded by the guerillas.

In the *Hue* sector, guerrillas' stepped up actions are reported by **GPA**. Militiamen and regional troops of **Huong Thuy** district, Southeast of the city, between Jan. 3 and Jan. 23, put more than 200 U.S.-puppet troops out of action, shot down 3 helicopters and planes and captured many weapons.

Further South, Western news agencies reported a successfull PLAF daring attack on Jan. 27 against U.S. **Phan Rang** air base, 255km East-Northeast of Saigon, in spite of a security belt thought impregnable by the Americans. The enemy losses were not disclosed.

In the Mekong Delta, during separate operations by the regional forces and guerillas of **Mo Cay** district, Ben Tre province, on Jan. 4, 7, 10 and 11, the enemy lost 310 men put out of action and 6 helicopters shot down.

10,000 Saigon Buddhists stage anti-US-puppet demonstration for peace

"WE want peace" "Give us back national independence", "We protest against general mobilization", "Down with those who scheme to prolong the war", "We demand serious negotiation", such were the slogans diaplayed in a big Buddhist procession through Saigon on January 25 last, the anniversary day of Enlightenment of Lord Buddha, Giai Phong Press Agency reported.

Hundreds of bonzes took part in the procession. Over ten thousand Buddhists paraded on 3 or 4 kilometres long. The demonstrators whose ranks were ceaselessly swelling marched while praying for peace. Young Buddhist followers carried blue banners of peace.

Despite the Saigon puppet administration's ban and several battalions of policemen and regular troops called in to contain the Buddhist demonstrators, a big crowd flowed towards the An Quang pagoda to pray for peace.

Nguyen Van Gia, from Quang Thai village, Quang Dien district, Thua Thien province, a war invalid, 18 times awarded the "Anti-U.S. Outstanding Fighter" title, is an expert in mine-making. He is shown (second from left) exchanging experiences with his mates.